

angels—Aves and Litanies to Mary; yet, as a beautiful writer has said, “there they stand for us as pure as if none had ever sung or had the keeping of them save angels and the spirits of the just made perfect. Like the sacred body of Him they sang, they lay in the tomb, but did not see corruption. And now that, with much conflict, and labour, and suffering, the mass of evil around them has been cleared off, and the great stone of the dead languages has been rolled away, they come forth to us fresh as with the eternal youth of the angels who guarded the Holy Sepulchre, with a countenance like lightning, and raiment white as snow, saying to us, ‘Fear not ye; it is not possible that Christ or His truth should be holden by any bands of death:’ the Lord is risen indeed.”

THE SLAVE TRADE IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

We publish below an able letter on this subject from the Rev. John Inglis to Rev. Dr. Steel, which appeared in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of Nov. 23. It deals fully and satisfactorily with the whole subject, and will aid, we trust, in bringing public opinion in the Australian Colonies into determined hostility to a system which is shewn to be unjust, unBritish and unchristian, and opposed equally to christianity and the real advancement of commerce and civilization. Strong representations have been made against the traffic to the British Government, as well as to the Colonial authorities in Australia, and immediate investigation has been promised.

“To the Rev. Dr. Steel, Sydney, Agent of the New Hebrides Mission.

“Aneityum, New Hebrides,
September 1st, 1868.

“My Dear Sir,—Last year our mission forwarded to you, for the colonial Governors, a petition and statement of facts, on the deportation of natives from this group. Those documents, so promptly attended to by you, and by those who acted with you, have not been without effect. Commodore Lambert, who has been in Fiji and the New Hebrides within the last two months, has been collecting all available information on the subject; and no doubt the Government will do all in its power to uphold the inter-

ests of justice and humanity. But unless supported by an enlightened public opinion, it is doubtful if Government can arrest the evil. Leviathan is not easily tamed. Avarice, when stimulated by a hope of gain, is fertile in expedients to blind the Government and evade the law.

“Since those documents were prepared, individual members of the mission have been following them up, by calling the attention of the Christian public to this subject, according as the evil has come under their own eye, or as they have had opportunities of holding communication with the public. I have recently returned from a six weeks’ voyage in the *Dayspring*, and I take this opportunity of communicating to you, as the agent of this mission, a few facts that have come under my own cognizance, and a few observations on the subject generally.

FACTS.

“When we arrived at Futuna, Mr. Copeland found that, during his absence at the missionary meeting in Aneityum, a vessel had been there and taken away six natives. When we came to Aniwa, Mr. Paton told us, that one Sabbath-day lately, the captain of a vessel had sent a boat for natives; he himself went down to the shore, and asked the name of the ship and the name of the captain. The man in charge of the boat said that he had only lately joined the vessel, and he did not know the name of either. Mr. Paton, however, explained to the natives the object for which the boat had come, and advised them to stay at home on their own island, which they did. But, had he not been there, some of them would have been ignorantly decoyed away. When we came to the south side of Tanna, I asked our Aneityum teachers, if many of the natives had been taken away from that district? ‘Many,’ they said, ‘why they are all away; all the young men are away, there is not one left!’ This, of course was an exaggeration; the usual way of putting a matter strongly. But it indicated clearly, that a great number of the young and strongest of their men had been taken away; and we know that the same thing has been going on round the whole of Tanna. When we came to Port Resolution, we found the white men living there. They had been previously living on the north end of Tanna, but a party from Brisbane, well known in the trade, had come and taken away two sons of the chief; at which the father was so angry, that he drove away the two men, and they had to break up their establishment and leave the place. When we came to Erromanga, we saw a vessel in the distance, creeping along the coast, and sending in her boat here and there; but she did not come near the mission station.